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EXPLORING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CAUSES OF CHILD LABOUR IN AUTOMOBILE WORKSHOPS IN DISTRICT MULTAN PUNJAB

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ABSTRACT

Child labor is deeply rooted and extremely extensive in Pakistan. The problem of Child Labour in District Multan is quite high and abnormal. Various studies have shown that a large number of children in different age group has been employed in various shops, like Cycle repair workshop, Cars workshop, Motorbike workshop, Trucks workshop, mechanical and electrical workshop. Rickshaw workshop and other places. This study explores the socioeconomic determinants of child labour in automobile workshops. The key variables in the present study were child labour and poverty. The researcher used quantitative method for survey research. The current research was conducted in District Multan, Punjab. Therefore, child labourers were selected in the sampling frame equally. Snowball sampling technique was adopted. A total of 80 respondents were selected from different automobile workshops. The majority of the children were poor and they had no education or little education. Their parents had little education and were poorly paid jobs, unemployed or deceased. In this paper, the causes of child labour have been identified and measures to reduce this curse have been suggested.

KEYWORDS

Child, Child Labour, socio-economic status, Child Exploitation, automobile workshops, District Multan

1. INTRODUCTION

More than 12.5 million children are involved in child labour in Pakistan. According to Reuters, “Pakistan’s Labour Force Survey, 2014-15 showed that of those children aged between 10 and 14 years active in child labour, 61 percent were boys and 88 percent came from rural areas” (Maria, 2017).

The children labour amounts all the children below 18, in dangerous professions or work activities in the labour market or their own household. Child labour positions negative influence in society and play a negative role in the gross development of the country, creating many social problems in society (Grimsrud 2003; Betcherman et al. 2004). Child labour is a common dilemma throughout the world (Rana, 2010). Child labour is especially universal in rural areas where the capacity to impose in smallest amount age requirements for the schooling and work is missing. Millions of poor children work for a variety of reasons. The reasons for working are closely related to the extreme poverty rate, the deficiency of implementation of elementary education laws, the absence of financial resources, and the large families have a very high birth-rate (Ahmed, 1991). However, children are not funded properly, they still act as main providers to family income in developing countries. Children are important property and the bright future of a nation (Shujaat, 2007). Children are the nation builder of tomorrow who needs special love, affection and care to become a skillful youth having the talent to bring a positive change in society (Awan, 2011). The society would provide the chances for their proper physical, social, mental, and moral growth, development and education. Childhood is a constructive part of human life in society, so they should not do such dangerous work as it is damaging to their physical or mental growth. Hence, there is a need to identify the vulnerable children and to point out the problems in relation to the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), predominantly poverty eradication, education for all, gender equality and combating HIV/AIDS and creation of a global partnership for the development of the society (Ravinder, 2009).

A private research firm lately reported that 49 percent of employable people have no job in Pakistan. Without job parents do not have adequate income to encounter their monthly expenses. Parents have to send their children to work so that they could help in household expenses. At an age when children should be going to school, numerous unlucky young children are forced to work (Salman, 2018). The rate of child labour is very high in big cities like Multan, Faisalabad, Rawalpindi, Karachi, Islamabad, and Sialkot because these cities are linked with industrious chain (Zaheer, 2017).

Working of children have to undergo a great struggle but for very little salary. Their work situations are chiefly plain, harsh and often not providing the inspiration for proper physical and mental development. Many of these children lead very lacking lives. However, there are so many problems with the logical explanation of straight away removing child labour to stop such a misappropriation. First, there is no international agreement defining child labour, making it hard to separate cases of abuse, let alone eliminate them. Second, many children may have to work in order to join the school for eliminating child labour may only delay their education.

2. LIST OF AUTO MOBILE WORKSHOP

1. Cycle repair workshop
2. Cars workshop
3. Mechanical and electrical workshop
4. Motorbike workshop
5. Trucks workshop
6. Rickshaw workshop

3. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

According to the ILO, child labour is an economic movement lead by a person below the age of 15. The children can be underpaid employees, independent tradesman or unpaid family workers. Working children suffer significant growth deficits both mental and physical. The problem of child labour is a burning question in Pakistan and as well as in the world. The fast rate of increase of child labour in Pakistan has attracted the attention of conscious citizens as well as and legislators (Moe, 1997).

Child labour problem in Pakistan is linked with the level of education, children are the future Doctors and engineers of the nation. Education is the backbone of the children but they don't get the education and a large number of children both in rural and urban areas are growing up without an atmosphere congenial to their physical, mental, moral and social development. Similarly, it is also linked with the amount of poverty and different customs of work in the country. In some families' children must help their family income either by working within family or at the farm or by taking up a job outside the family. Due to poverty and certain other factors many children are dragged into labour force at the earlier stage of their personal growth. It can be explained as the use of human abilities and resources for one's personal benefits. Exploited labour is always covered by illegal settings like the home-based industries, auto workshops and domestic attached duties, etc. Children are the most exploited segment of our society. They are exploited and their basic human rights are given very reluctantly. Such kind of illegal conditions raise their problems, and major problems of these children are health problem and exploitation such as sexual exploitation, physical exploitation, psychological exploitation, etc. Excepting that children working in auto workshops consider negligible category group because of their work condition. The socio-economic background of a child's family determines the range of potential options and the extent of opportunities for the development of a child's capacity. It all depends upon the resources of the family and it is the family's social and economic position that determines whether the children would be sent to school or to an auto workshop as a wage earner. It is a matter of common observation that the children working in auto workshops are subjected to cruel treatment in spite of the continued existence of the rules regarding the employment of children. So, in this situation they give priority to children work as compare to children education, the number of child labour cases is increased at various places in this regard. The concern over this resulted in a banned from western countries on those made in Pakistan goods in which child labour has been used, the example of this child labour work is sports good like Pakistani Footballs were rejected in world cup 2010. Keeping in opinion the above-mentioned situation, the present study was planned to examine socio-

economic and other factors which force children to work in auto workshops (Ray, 2000). The following are the objectives of the study formulated by the researcher keeping in mind the scope and sensitivity of the research.

4. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Study

- To identify the different causes of child labour in Multan
- To explore the socio-economic measures of the child labour
- To suggest some measures and recommendations

5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The basic purpose of the present study was to highlight the child labour in Automobile workshops of Multan. As child labour was increasing rapidly day by day, particularly in the rural areas, so the present study intends to point the problems of child labour. The study led to elaborate the socio-economic circumstances of children. The child labour working condition was pathetic and the study made more illustration of the real situation. The study further clarified the compulsion of the children being employed in the auto workshop as a labour.

The current study will be the pioneer study about the children working in workshops of Multan. Before the current research, there was no sociological study available on the child labour of this particular area. The current study will help the other researchers and academicians to know about the problems of the child working in automobile workshops. This will also give a proper insight into the behaviour of the people with these children and the impact of child labour on the education and socio-economic conditions. Most of the researches on child labour focused on one aspect of child labour, but the present study will provide a holistic picture of the child labour in the area. It will address many aspects of child labour and its consequent implications for their families. The study will serve as a useful addition to the current literature on the child labour issue and will also help other researchers to enrich their research on such topics.

6. ASSUMPTION

Socioeconomic deterrents make the mind of the parents that instead of transfer their children to school, it will be more beneficial for them to send their children for labour. Because it will save their time and they will also get an expert, which can earn themselves and help them. Socioeconomic aspects are most several in child labours. The majority of the respondents were forced by their parents to work for the increasing of their financial position. It was further observed that poverty is the major responsible aspect for child labour chased by the few other factors like lack of interest in education, large family sizes and uncontrollable societal behaviour in society. The Societies with high birth rates are often ones where prevalence of child labour is very high. The household structure has an irrelevant consequence on child labour contribution in Pakistan. Family structure determines the importance of taking into thought the activities of siblings. The number of siblings not enrolled in school shows to be an important control variable in at least one specification of the empirical model. However, more research is needed on the interactions between siblings, their activities and their age structure. An effort which must be made to find

resources of taking into account the “life cycle effects” of one’s siblings on their schooling performance and labour force activity.

Child labour is a serious social problem in Pakistan. If a child is not properly socialized then he or she will not be able to as a literate and confident citizen of the country. early in the morning when the school children wear their school uniform and go to school so the child labour who cannot afford the school expenses due to their financial problems, poverty is also the main cause that children forces for working.

7. INTRODUCTION

The theoretical framework is supposed to help the reader make a reasonable sense of the relationships of the variables and factors that have been deemed relevant/important to the problem. It provides relationships between all the variables so the reader can understand the theorized relationships between them. A theoretical framework is a gathering of connected concepts, like a theory but not necessarily so well worked-out. A theoretical framework guides your research, determining what things you will measure, and what statistical relationships you will look for.

Theoretical frameworks are also important in exploratory studies, where you really don't know much about what is going on and are trying to learn more. There are two reasons why theoretical frameworks are important here. First, no matter how little you think you know about a topic, and how unbiased you think you are, it is impossible for a human being not to have predetermined concepts, even if they are of a very general nature. For example, some people essentially believe that people are basically lazy and undependable, and you have kept your reasons for you to avoid being conned. These fundamental beliefs about human nature affect how you look at things when doing research. In this sense, you are always being directed by a theoretical framework, but you don't know about it. Not knowing what your real framework is can be a problem. The framework tends to guide what you notice in an organization, and what you don't notice. In other words, you don't even notice things that are not appropriate for your framework. We can never completely get around this problem, but we can decrease the problem significantly by simply making our understood framework obvious. Once it is explicit, we can intentionally consider other frameworks.

8. HYPOTHESIS TESTING

Hypothesis 1: The income of child labour supports the household expenses of a family.

Null Hypothesis Ho: There is no relationship between child labours income and income supports household expenses.

Alternative Hypothesis H1: There is a relationship between child labours income and income supports household expenses.

9. CONCEPTUALIZATION AND OPERATIONALIZATION

9.1. Conceptualization

Conceptualization refers to the process of defining and clarifying the concepts and variables that are being used in research work. In this process, research topic is divided into variables which are further explained and defined in the light of existing knowledge obtained from encyclopaedias and book. A variable or concept may have contexts; therefore, it is necessary to specify the nearest

meaning of variable or concept that is being used in research work. The conceptualization of research concepts is as follow child labour and poverty.

9.2. Child Labour

According to Basu, Kaushik, and Van, Pham Hoang, in “The Economics of Child Labour” (June 1998): 412–27 altogether highlights a new dimension in conceptualizing Child labour. According to “The Economics of Child Labour” Child labour is a facet of poverty. According to International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences (2008) pp.167 child labour is work done by persons under age eighteen or younger, depending on applicable national law that is unsafe for them for being rude, exploitive, harmful, or otherwise different to their best benefit, International Encyclopaedia of the Social Sciences vehemently defines such as. According to “Children in the International Political Economy” (1995), child labour is children’s working in conditions that are extremely abusive and manipulative.

9.3. Poverty

According to the Encyclopaedia Britannica 2014 pp.432, Poverty is a state of one who lacks a usual or socially adequate amount of money or material property. It exists when people lack the means to fulfil their basic needs. Encyclopaedia Britannica highlights a new dimension in conceptualizing poverty. According to Iceland and Ritzier in Blackwell encyclopaedia of sociology (2007) pp.3587-89 poverty generally refers to material lack, it is a complex experience for those who are stressed to get by. It can certainly involve economic hardship, such as complexity in paying food bills or living in housing in severe disorder. Encyclopaedia of sociology vehemently defines such as.

9.4. Operationalization

Operationalization refers to determine the variables in the respective tool for data collection. In the present study the variables have operationalized the questionnaire as under.

9.5. Child Labour

Child labour is something which takes away childhood from children, their potential and their self-esteem, and that is unsafe for physical and mental development. The variable was asked in the questionnaire as

To what extent your siblings are doing child labour?

To what extent child labour is sufficient to support household expenses?

9.5. Poverty

Poverty is something in which someone is unable to provide material needs due to lack of resources. The variable was asked in the questionnaire as:

- To what an extent your family is facing poverty?
- To what an extent you are working for eradication poverty?

10. METHODOLOGY

The present study is a sociological study of child labour with special reference to children working in automobile workshops of Multan District. The universe selected for the present study was district Multan including automobile workshops located on Jannat Town Shah Ruke Alam. A sample refers to small representation of the universe. For study purpose, 120 respondents (children) were conveniently selected from different automobile workshops.

11. MAJOR FINDINGS

Table 1: Distribution of respondents' age

Category	Frequency	Percent
less than 5 years	13	16.25
6 to 9 years	29	36.25
10 to 12 years	22	27.5
13 to 17	16	35.8
Total	80	100

Table 2: Distribution income of Respondents

Categories	Frequency	Percent
less than 1000	9	11.5
1001 to 1500	27	33.75
1501 to 2000	11	13.75
2001 to 2500	21	26
2501 and above	12	15
Total	80	100.0

Table 3: Distribution respondents Education

Categories	Frequency	Percent
Illiterate	49	61.25
Primary	23	28.75
Middle	8	10.0
Total	80	100.0

Table 4: Distribution of respondents Working Hours

Categories	Frequency	Percent
10-12	54	67.5
13-15	23	28.75
16-18	3	3.75
Total	80	100.0

Table 5: Distribution of respondents working for the eradication of poverty

Categories	Frequency	Percent
To a great extent	59	73.75
To some extent	17	21.25
Not at all	4	5.0
Total	80	100

Table 6: Family knowledge about children labour

Categories	Frequency	Percent
To a great extent	53	66.25
To some extent	23	28.75
Not at all	4	5
Total	80	100

Table 1 indicates the age of child labourer in Multan. Relatively, majority of the respondents in the age interval of 6-9 were almost 36 percent. Only around 16 percent of the respondents were in the age group of fewer than 5 years. Table shows that large a very large number of child labourer from the 6-9 years are working in automobile workshops.

Table 2 indicates the income of child labourer in Multan. Relatively, majority of the respondent's income is in the interval of 1001-1500 which is about 33.75 percent. Actable show that only 11.5 percent children are working less than 1000. The reason behind they belonged from poor family and their parents cannot afford to send their children for education. Their family demands them to earn because they need it to run their daily food expenses.

Table 3 shows the respondent's education on child labour in Multan. Table shows that almost 61 percent children were illiterate and only 10 percent children were got middle education.

The 4 shows that how many hours' children are working at different workshops. About 67 percent of children are working 10-12 hours and lowest percentage was 2.75, and they were working for 16-18 hours.

The table 5 shows that most children were working due to poverty. Approximately 73 percent children were working to great extent and only 5 percent children were working for their own choice.

The table 6 shows that children parents knew that their children were working in workshops. Almost 66 percent children know that their children were working and only 5 percent children do know about their children of working at workshops.

12. CONCLUSION

Child labour is a big problem with Pakistan. It is not only exist in Pakistan but also almost all Asian countries and even in America and Europe. This study concludes that the main cause behind child labour in district Multan is poverty.

Poverty is endemic in this society. The main reason for child labour maybe poverty and large family size. To cope this situation this is important for the state to help out these children. As it is hard to educate all the member of the society in underdeveloped countries like Pakistan, but serious steps and measures are to be taken, then the day would no longer be far away when there will be less chance of child labour in the country.

Another key factor is ignorance about the right of the children by their families and the children themselves, usually, unawareness prevails everywhere and even some times among educated people. In our societies important number of people have little/no information about social issues. This unawareness finally leads to alarming situation.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS

The socio-economic difference in the society resulting from uneven and unjust functioning of the economy should be stopped. The government should make special provisions in the laws to safeguard the circumstances in which child workers have to work with maximum wage level while working hours, special benefits and other benefits must be ensured. The suggestions are given below.

1. The state should organize a complain cell to aware the parents about bad effects of child labour.
2. Electronic and print media should also help the state to participate and deliver campaign to overcome child labour.
3. The community member should support these types of children who cannot afford their expenses and help them to get education.
4. Labour laws about child labour should be enforced.
5. Employment chances such as handicraft, carpentry, small-scale industries & other income-generating activities must be created to provide the people sensible income sources for the purpose of eliminating the problem of child labour.
6. Labour unions may also be involved in the fight against child labour.
7. Poverty is the main reasons for child labour in Multan. The government should launch a program for these children to help financially and support them in getting education.

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